

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3467
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PK
SUBJECT: PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

REF: (A) STATE 187996, (B) ISLAMABAD 8125, (C) ISLAMABAD 8505,

1. OF THE REMAINING EIGHT AMNESTY PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE NOTED
PARA TWO REFTTEL B, SYED SAEED HASAN AND ALI AHMAD KURD WERE
FREED IN EARLY AUGUST BY THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. ATAULLAH MENGAL
WAS RELEASED ON BAIL AUGUST 19, AND PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT
THE GOP IS MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS TRAVEL TO THE U.S. FOR
MEDICAL TREATMENT.

2. TARIQ ASHRAF AND MOHAMMED IBRAHIM MUNSHI BOTH REMAIN IN JAIL,
BUT CONGEN KARACHI REPORTS SINDHI WRITERS AND POETS CONTINUE
TO AGITATE FOR THEIR RELEASE.

3. THE REMAINING THREE, MIRAJ MOHAMMED KAHN, MIR GHAS BAKSH
BIZENJO, AND KHAIR BAKSH MARRI ARE STILL BEING HELD BY THE
SPECIAL TRIBUNAL HEARING THE HYDERABAD CONSPIRACY CASE.
ALTHOUGH THE MARITAL LAW ADMIN-
ISTRATION HAS REPEATEDLY SAID THAT THE HYDERABAD TRIBUNAL WILL
CONTINUE ITS PRECEEDINGS, THE RECENT RELEASE OF MENGAL AND TWO
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OTHER DEFENDENTS ON BAIL, RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MLA'S
ATTITUDE TOWARD THE TRIAL. THE PRESS CONINUES TO GIVE CONSIDER-
ABLE COVERAGE TO THE CASE, INCLUDING STATEMENTS OF THE DEFENDENTS
CONTESTING THE CHARGES ON WHICH THEY ARE HELD. IT IS ALSO WORTH
NOTING THAT UNDER PAKISTANI LAW, ANY SPECIAL TRIBUNAL
FINDING MAY BE APPEALED TO THE REGULAR HIGH COURTS.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT, AS IS TRADITIONAL WITH PROMINENT PRISONERS IN PAKISTAN, THE HYDERABAD DEFENDENTS ARE LIVING COMFORTABLY, ARE ALLOWED VISITORS, AND RECEIVE MEDICAL CARE. THE MOST NOTABLE DEFENDENT, WALI KHAN, NOW OCCUPIES A SUITE OF ROOMS AT A HOSPITAL IN PINDI WHERE HE IS RECEIVING MEDICAL TREATMENT. HIS WIFE IS LIVING WITH HIM, AS ARE OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS, AND HE IS ALLOWED TO RECEIVE POLITICAL VISITORS. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL A, KARACHI REPORTS THAT SO FAR AS THEY CAN DETERMINE, MIRAJ MOHAMMED KHAN'S HEALTH REMAINS AS REPORTED IN KARACHI 1823 AND ISLAMABAD 11543. HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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